



## The NASA Glenn Research Center Macintosh User Group

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### Table of Contents

Editorial .....	1
President's Corner.....	2
Digitizelt (review).....	3
Inside .Mac (review) .....	4
My iMac Purchase.....	5
Tips & Tricks.....	6
Apple Mail Tip.....	7
Mac OS X Hints (review) ..	8
Nifty Mac Links.....	9

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Welcome to the July issue of the NASA MUG newsletter. Hopefully everyone is having a splendiferous summer!

Our web site has gone live for outside viewing. Check it out at: <http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/AdvisoryGroups/MUG/index.html>. As you will note in Melissa's Prez Corner, we are seeking someone with html experience to keep it up to date. Don't be shy. We can't do it all, so need your help!!

I have been sending out a few emails to those who expressed an interest in beta testing OS 10.3.4. So far, no complaints. If you would like to be included in this group, and are NOT on the refresh list before October 1, let me know. Right now I am handling this upgrade myself, so can only do a couple a day. The upgrade takes approximately two hours and I have to come out to your machine to do it. Eudora, Acrobat Reader, and Entrust are also being upgraded.

I have also been deploying GP Tools to as many macs as I can find on the network. This is an add-in for PowerPoint that is a mandatory NASA wide group of templates for NASA presentations. If you have not configured GP Tools to work with Powerpoint, please contact the Help Desk at 4848 and request assistance. If you have not received GP Tools (a message would have popped up on screen), let me know the tag number of machine and I'll send it out.

—Lisa Madden, Editor

<http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/WWW/AdvisoryGroups/MUG/>

or

<http://GMUG.grc.nasa.gov>

# President's Corner

Well, it's time for another newsletter. Unfortunately, with the latest World Wide Developers Conference come and gone, there aren't too many new things Mac related to talk about. At least there was a sneak preview of Tiger. I didn't watch the QuickTime movie of the keynote yet, but the buzz on the net is pretty positive. You can get to the sneak peek here: <http://www.apple.com/mac-osx/tiger/>

Apple's been having a good year as far as the stock prices go, and an okay year in terms of selling those Macs. The iTunes store has launched in Europe to much fanfare, and the iPods are still selling like hotcakes. The iTunes music store is closing in on 100 million songs. Apparently, in September, there will be an all-new iMac for the consumer line. Apple itself put out that product pre-announcement. Then Tiger will be arriving sometime next year. All in all, things look pretty cheerful for our Mr. Jobs.

On the Mac users on the lab front, I don't know when Panther will officially be rolled out. It's been showing up here and there on the newer machines as refreshes happen. Other issues are in the works besides the upgrade, so my impression is things are complicated. When I know something that I can share, I'll pass it along.

On the GMUG front, our only big news is the web page. I finally managed to get all the 508 and Glenn compliance issues fixed in order to go live. So, anytime you want to

get to the GMUG web page, it is now officially available to the public outside of the firewall. With that said, anyone with good html skills, a bit of free time or both is more than welcome to help me update the site. I pulled it together in 2000 and haven't done much to change the look of things in a long time.

Head on over to <http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/AdvisoryGroups/MUG/index.html> and check us out! Please send any and all comments my way. I'll try to incorporate them as time permits.

**(Ed Note: I am sending out emails a few at a time for the upgrade to 10.3.4. The upgrade consists of the OS upgrade, Eudora 6.1.1, Acrobat 6.0, and Entrust {if you use it}. The total upgrade takes a bit over 2 hours, and therefore, I cannot schedule too many at a time. If you NEED it now, and are NOT on the refresh list before October, let me know — Lisa).**



*—Melissa McGuire, President*

Digitizelt 1.5: Pick points off graphs with ease

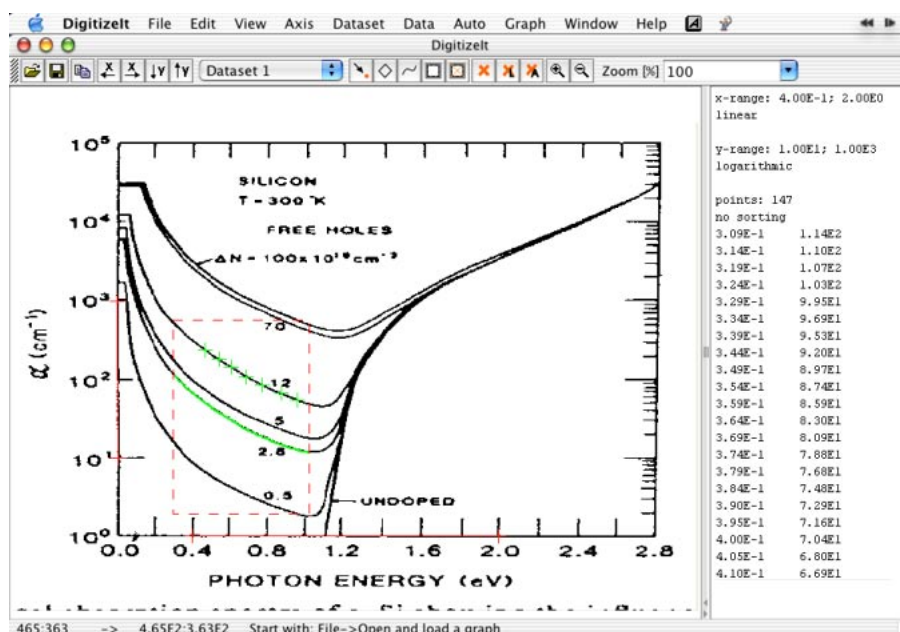
By Melissa McGuire

Reference site: <http://www.digitizeit.de/>

Available for Win98-WinXP, Linux, Solaris, Mac OS X

**Shareware: \$39**

Often times, I have a graph of data, but not the data-points that made up the plot. The graph itself doesn't do me a lot of good when I need to hook the data into other tools, like excel calculations or FORTRAN routines. Picking the points off the curve by hand is an inexact science to be kind, and offers results in data-points that are less than accurate.



So, I did a little searching for a tool that might help me in picking points off of a graph. Another Mac-using scientist suggested Digitizelt to me, to fulfill this need. It's by a German developer, and it's shareware. I headed on over to versiontracker.com to check it out.

You can download it for testing free for 21 days. After that time, you either pay up or stop using it. I had my summer intern test it out for me this year. As long as I had a graphic file of the plot, Digitizelt could read off the points. There's extensive online help available. There is automatic digitizing for scatter and line plots, and manual digitizing of mouse clicking on the points.

I've been happy with it and intend to purchase the license when the trial period is over. I can see using this application many times to adapt data from presentations and graphs.

*Disclaimer: The opinions of this article are the author's and not NASA Glenn Research Center.*

# Inside .Mac

by Chuck Toporek

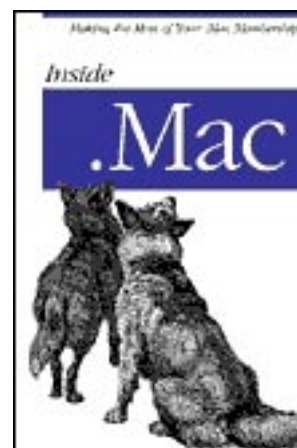
*Review by Melissa McGuire*

May 2004

ISBN: 0-596-00501-6

384 pages, \$19.95 US, \$28.95 CA, £13.95 UK

<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/indotmac/>



Most things Apple makes can be easily figured out without a manual. That's a good thing since Apple rarely includes a manual (other than a booklet or online help) with any of its products these days. Having a .Mac membership, I thought I pretty much knew what I could do with the member benefits. Still, I decided to give trusty O'Reilly a try to see what sorts of insights their .Mac book could give me.

I am three chapters into the book and I've already come upon a few. Not only is the Inside .Mac book helpful for .Mac users, it also contains some helpful hints for those new to any of Apple's iLife products. I learned a little bit about synchronizing my iDisk as well as setting up Mail.

I have made use of my homepage space from my .Mac account to share pictures of my son. What I didn't know is that I could synchronize that site (and all the contents of my iDisk) on my local hard-drive. This will let me work offline on my site, which is a good thing because my cable modem connection is still unreliable.

I also learned how to "fake out" Mail in order to set up my .mac account as a POP account. This will download all mail to my hard-drive instead of leaving it up on Apple's servers. If you set up your .Mac account the default way, all mail in your inbox actually resides on the Apple servers. This enables you check that inbox via the web or any other computer you've set up to access your .Mac account. I tend to save my emails, forever (like a lot of other GRC folks), so downloading and keeping was an option I wanted to use.

I'd recommend this book for folks new to the Mac and new to using Apple's online tools. If you're looking to host a webpage and put up some of your home movies or pictures, but aren't sure how to do it, this book walks you through all the steps with easy to follow instructions and accompanying graphics. I'm looking forward to learning how to use the iBlog software to put up an online blog onto my site!

*The opinions expressed in this review are those of the author and do not imply the endorsement of NASA.*

# My iMac Purchase

by John Brodkowski



It started with an advertisement I saw while leafing through a magazine while waiting for my doctor's appointment. I had been searching for a replacement for my old Performa and had not found anything that really caught my eye until now. It was the new iMac with the 9" diameter base and the flat 17" screen. The compact design and the overall appearance really caught my attention. So I proceeded to seek out information from the experts at the local NASA MUG. Melissa McGuire answered some questions about concerns and had provided me with information about a faster model to come out soon so I held off my

purchase and it paid off. She had also told me about the government employees purchase program which I took advantage of and saved a couple of hundred bucks. Also, the 6 months same as cash deal sewed it all up for me.

My phone order went very smoothly with the Apple folks and they did not even pressure me into buying more stuff than I what I wanted. I got the HP 2175 printer with a \$99 rebate and additional software. I also purchased the .mac software only because it had a tutorial on how to use all the features of the computer as I can use all the help I can get.

Surprisingly, the printer and the software came within 3 days all the way from California although the computer itself took a couple of weeks only because the faster model had just come out and they were backed up with the shipping.

Overall it was a good experience and I appreciate the continued support of the MUG with helping me know my computer.

<http://www.theimac.com/>

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# iTunes 100 million song promotion

Melissa McGuire

Apple is offering a pretty cool incentive to iTunes shoppers to keep buying during the next few weeks. As the total songs sold crosses the 95 million mark and closes in on 100 million, Apple will be giving away 50 special 20 GB iPods and some free songs to the purchaser every 100,000<sup>th</sup> song downloaded. At over 97 million songs already, this won't take long.

Further details can be found here:

<http://www.apple.com/itunes/100million>

Official Rules

[http://www.apple.com/itunes/100million/\\_rules](http://www.apple.com/itunes/100million/_rules)



# MUG Store Passwords

The MUG store always has great deals for MUG members.

Remember the MUG store for the following benefits to all User Groups:

- Free freight on all orders
- Knowledgeable consultants available for every customer
- Great deals on new, refurbished and used Macs
- Blowout deals on a large assortment of goodies and accessories
- One percent goes back to your group in merchandise

## Passwords:

4/1/2004 - 7/31/2004 - User ID: ipod / Password: mini

8/1/2004 - 11/30/2004 - User ID: xserve / Password: raid

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

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## Tips and Tricks

*Courtesy of MacAddict*

**A faster way to rename files:** select the file or folder, press Return, and immediately begin typing a new name.

**Powerbook battery thinks it's dead:** let it drain till it shuts off (ignore warnings), charge it back up, drain it again, charge it back up. do this a couple times to set the electronics properly. there is also a utility called XBattery (\$15, [www.kezer.net/xbattery.html](http://www.kezer.net/xbattery.html)) that will show you the battery's reported capacity.

**Speeding up update optimization:** During this phase of an install, the Aqua progress bar consumes processor time. Minimize this dialog by clicking the yellow ball in the title bar and the optimization will complete much faster.

**How to get Desktop Printers back:** Open Applications>Utilities>Printer Set up Utility. Highlight your printer, go to the Printers menu, and choose Create Desktop printer. Select a save location (default is desktop), and click Save. The printer will behave just as it did in OS 9. double clicking the printer will reveal its queue and settings, and dragging documents to it will print them.

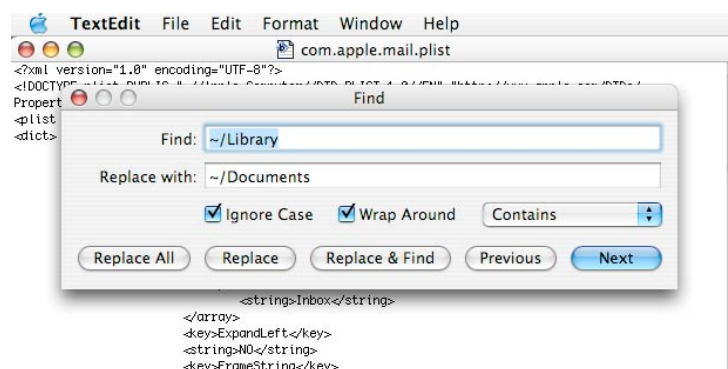
# Putting your Apple Mail email files into your Documents Folder

*Note – This is not for the “faint of heart” and requires messing with a Preference XML file. Please read all the instructions, and if you don’t feel comfortable performing the steps listed – PLEASE DON’T TRY IT.*

by Rob Button

I like to regularly backup all my important files to CD or DVD. To make things easy on me, I try to keep all my important files in my **Documents** folder. Lately I discovered that Apple Mail defaults to keeping all my email files in my **~/Library** folder (~ signifies your user account Home folder) along with lots of other files that I don’t really want to backup. By snooping around the XML .plist file for Mail I was able to force Mail to use the **Documents** folder instead. Here are the steps to make it work:

- 1) Quit Apple Mail
- 2) Go to your **~/Documents** folder and check that there is no folder called **Mail**. If you already have a **Mail** folder in the Documents folder you likely have multiple email accounts split between the two folders, so these instructions won’t work. STOP HERE and call me (x8010) for additional instructions.
- 3) Go to your **~/Library** folder and **copy** the **Mail** folder into your **~/Documents** folder. You can **copy** using drag-and-drop while holding down the Option key, or you can use the copy and paste commands (Apple-C, Apple-V) in the Finder. Don’t just **move** it so you have a backup in case things go wrong.
- 4) Now move the original **~/Library/Mail** folder into the Trash – but don’t empty yet.
- 5) Go to **~/Library/Preferences** and find the **com.apple.mail.plist** file. This is the XML preference file for Apple Mail. Duplicate the file (to create a backup) and open the original with TextEdit.
- 6) Perform a Find and Replace (Edit - Find...) on this XML file using:  
Find: **~/Library**  
Replace: **~/Documents**  
Click on Replace All. This will re-point all the XML file pointers to your Documents folder instead of your Library folder.



- 7) Save the file and you’re done.

Now, launch Apple Mail and check that everything is working as it had before, except now all your new email will be located in your Documents folder from now on.

*Note - If by some chance this doesn’t work and everything is screwed up – simply trash your modified plist file, restore the original (remove “copy” from the name), and put your Mail folder back into the Library from the Trash.*

*The opinions expressed in this review are those of the author and do not imply the endorsement of NASA.*



# Mac OS X Hints, Jaguar Edition

By Fran Lawas-Grodek

By Rob Griffiths, Edited by David Pogue

May 2003

0-596-00451-6

478 pages

<http://oreilly.com/catalog/macxhints/index.html>

Rob Griffiths is the creator of the Mac OS X Hints web site (<http://www.macosxhints.com>), an online database of over 5000 tips on using OS X. This Mac OS X Hints book contains over 500 tips that were selected from that website as being the most useful and/or interesting, but unlike the website, are nicely organized into sections of related matter, allowing a flowing read if you so prefer. Plenty of screenshots are shown to clarify these hints. However, the writing style of the book does not require that you need to read an entire chapter (or entire book for that matter) end to end – you can zero in on your desired topic by the fairly descriptive Table of Contents or Index, read enough of the hint, and then go merrily on your way. But do find the time to read the entire book—you'd be surprised at the number of undocumented goodies and lesser known tidbits that are scattered throughout the book.

Areas that useful tips and hints are covered in this book include:

- Navigating the Finder and Desktop, eg. changing the Login Window picture
- working with the Dock (including killing it!)
- customizing System Preferences, eg. removing the Toolbar or Preference Panels
- making sense of Networking, eg. Server connections, iDisk, ssh, file sharing
- Mail (no Eudora here!)
- making iTunes sing for you
- other iApps, ie. iPhoto 2, iMovie iCal, iChat, iDVD
- Web Browsers, ie. Internet Explorer, Safari, OmniWeb, Mozilla, Netscape,
- Unix suggestions – more gems on Terminal use, eg. “sudo” to the rescue

A sampler of this book can be found at [http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/macxhints/macxhints\\_sampler.pdf](http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/macxhints/macxhints_sampler.pdf)

I found this book to be the perfect accompaniment to the Mac OS X Missing Manual by David Pogue (<http://www.missingmanuals.com>). These two books together make great additions to an OS X reference library, particularly helpful during those times when you need to look something up and aren't connected to the network.

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# G5 iMac Rumors

Well, looks like two web sites are already reporting that the new iMacs to be shipping in September (according to Apple) are going to be G5s! Apparently the delay for the iMacs shipping has been IBMs manufacturing process of the G5s. Ergo, G5s in the iMacs.

Here's some more details of the rumors/reports:

\* iMac G5 to Ship September" Apple-X.net 1:00 PM

<http://www.apple-x.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=1009&mode=thread&order=1&thold=0>

\* "New iMac will be a G5" Ars Technica 9:37 AM

<http://arstechnica.com/news/posts/20040715-3995.html>



## Nifty MAC Links

Box & Whisker Drill 1.2 (Freeware - 07/06/2004)

math program for middle school students

<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macos/10180>

ZodiaCalc 1.2 (Shareware - 07/06/2004)

Astrological software

<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macos/23881>

Brickles Pro 1.0.6 (Shareware - 07/06/2004)

classic ball and paddle breakout-type game

<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macos/10218>

EarthDesk 2.6.1 (Shareware - 07/06/2004)

Desktop pic; changing sun shaded world maps

<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macos/14212>

KidsGoGoGo 8.6 (Shareware - 07/06/2004)

Parentally controlled Web filter app

<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macos/12721>

DiveTable 1.6.1 (Freeware - 07/04/2004)

Open water scuba dive planning software

<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macos/11381>